

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application and are subject to an election requirement.

The Outstanding Office Action states that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Fig. 1, 2, 3, 5-7;
- Fig. 3b;
- Fig. 4a;
- Fig. 4b;
- Fig. 4c;
- Fig. 8-10;
- Fig. 11;
- Fig. 12; and
- Fig. 13.

The Outstanding Office Action further states that the Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

In accordance with the election requirement, Applicant elects the species in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 5-7. The Claims that correspond with this species include: Claims 1-14, and 19-23.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for

further prosecution. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7524.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 19 JUL 04

By: Kelly K. Burris

Kelly K. Burris, Reg. No. 46,361

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
7700 Bonhomme Ave., Suite 400  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(314)726-7500

[KKB/lds]